

What's New in the MPDC

JULY 22, 2002

RESERVE CORPS AMONG THE PROGRAMS FUNDED BY NEW VOLUNTEERS IN HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS

Even before the new grant kicks in, the MPDC continues to look at expanding the Reserve Officer program. Individuals interested in learning more about the program and beginning the application process are invited to call the MPDC Recruiting Office at (202) 727-2767 or by going on-line to:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/services_PRC.shtm

The First District station provided the backdrop this past week as Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge, Mayor Williams and other local and federal officials announced the recipients of the first federal grants for volunteer service in homeland security. The grants will support volunteers active in meeting the public safety, public health, emergency response and disaster preparedness of communities around the country, including the District. DC is receiving three grants totaling \$1 million to be given to three organizations: the DC Commission on National and Community Service, the National Capital Chapter of the American Red Cross and the National Association of Community Health Centers. The

\$400,000 grant to the DC Commission will include money to help expand the MPDC Reserve Officer program. The Reserve Corps is a volunteer program providing qualified civic-minded individuals with the opportunity to assist the MPDC in carrying out its policing responsibilities through a variety of administrative and community service tasks. A news release on the announcement is available at:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

MULTI-DISTRICT TASK FORCE CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE BIZARRE AND DANGEROUS STRING OF DART ATTACKS

An MPDC task force composed of detectives from several police district is continuing its investigation into a series of reported attacks on people in DC using darts. There have been at least 15 reported attacks resulting in injuries and one attack in which the victim was narrowly missed. The latest dart attack report occurred Tuesday afternoon, July 16, when a citizen reported being missed by a dart while he was at a bus stop in front of 3001 Bladensburg Road, NE. Most of the previously reported attacks occurred on Sunday, July 14. The victims in all but one of the cases were pedestrians who appear to have been randomly targeted; one victim was driving his car when he was struck. Task force detectives are also working with Prince George's County Police, who are investigating at least four reported dart attacks since July 13, 2002. The MPDC has sent the recovered darts to the FBI Laboratory for analysis, although at this time the darts do not appear to have been tainted. Anyone with information about these cases is asked to call the MPDC at (202) 727-9099 or the DC Crime Solvers Unit at (800) 673-2777. Get an update on the investigation, including the locations of the attacks in DC and a photo of one of the recovered darts, at:

Remember, any caller to Crime Solvers who provides information that leads to an arrest and indictment in this case will be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000. Learn more about the Crime Solvers program at:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/solvers.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

NEWLY PROMOTED AND TRAINED DETECTIVES TO BOLSTER INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS

Over the past two weeks, the MPDC has trained and promoted 83 new detectives who will bolster criminal investigation efforts in a variety of areas. This past Friday, in a ceremony at Gallaudet University, Chief Ramsey presented badges to 55 new Detectives-Grade 1. The highest grade level for detectives, D-1s generally work on more complex cases. The previous week, the Chief swore in 28 new Detectives-Grade 2. All of the newly promoted detectives were chosen based on a new, competitive selection process, and all of the detectives had to successfully complete a rigorous pre-service training program. The 83 detectives have assignments in a variety of investigative units, including the Violent Crimes Branch (which investigates homicides and serious shootings), the Special Investigations Branch, Youth and Preventive Services, Office of Professional Responsibility and various district detective offices.

WAVE 3 OF "SMOOTH OPERATOR" AGGRESSIVE DRIVING CRACKDOWN

While high speeds and hairpins turns are the order of the day during the Cadillac Grand Prix at RFK Stadium, motorists in DC are reminded to watch their speeds and avoid other aggressive driving behavior – especially during the upcoming week. Wave 3 of the region-wide "Smooth Operator" program runs from July 21-27. During this week, officers in DC (as well as Maryland and Virginia) will be paying special attention to drivers who speed, run red lights and stop signs, tailgate, make dangerous lane changes or engage in other aggressive driving actions. Violators will be tickets, and heavy fines and points will be assessed. For more information, visit the Smooth Operator page at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/smoothop.shtm

While Smooth Operator has four concentrated enforcement "waves" during the summer, DC's photo enforcement programs operate year-round to help make the roads safer. The latest results of the photo radar program (through June) show that fewer than 1 in 10 vehicles is now exceeding the program's speeding threshold, down from almost 1 in 3 vehicles last July. Learn more about the photo radar and red-light camera programs on the MPDC Traffic Safety page:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mark your calendars! The annual National Night Out against crime celebration will take place on Tuesday, August 6. For information about events in your community, contact your local police district or call the MPDC's Community Outreach Section at 202-727-0783.

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV